1992-93	40	:	60
1993-94	40	:	60
1994-95	40	:	60

However, due to various incentive schemes, under which higher free sale quota is being allowed to factories covered under those schemes, the effective levy, freesale ratio presently is about 33:67.

(b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to change the levy-freesale ratio of 40:60.

Extending Jurisdiction of Consumer Courts

1953. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering extending the jurisdiction of the Consumer Courts in the country;

(b) the number of Consumer Courts functioning at different levels in the country;

(c) whether Government has considered the need for more consumer Courts in view of the growing number of cases; and

(d) if so, whether there are proposals to establish more Consumer Courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A working Group has been set up to suggest amendments in the Consumer Protection Act and Rules to make implementation of the consumer protection Act, 1986 more effective and ensure smooth and effective functioning of consumer courts.

(b) A National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at the National level, 31 State Commissions and 457 District fora are already functioning in the country. The State of Jammu & Kashmir has adopted the Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987. State-wise position is indicated in the statement enclosed. (*see* below)

(c) and (d) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has already been amended through the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 1993 empowering the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up additional District Fora in a District depending upon the workload. However, the decision to establish the additional District Fora lies solely with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Statement

Position of Implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

State/UT	Position of State Commission	No. of Districts	Position of District Forums
Andhra Pradesh	Functioning	23	22 Functioning
Arunachal Pradesh	Functioning	12	12 Functioning
Assam	Functioning	23	23 Functioning
Gujarat	Functioning	20	20 Functioning
Bihar	Functioning	50	39 Functioning
Goa	Functioning	2	2 Functioning
Haryana	Functioning	16	16 Functioning
Himachal Pradesh	Functioning	12	12 Functioning

State/UT	Position of State Commission	No. of Districts	Position of District Forums
Karnataka	Functioning	20	20 Functioning
Kerala	Functioning	14	14 Functioning
Madhya Pradesh	Functioning	45	45 Functioning
Maharashtra	Functioning	31	31 Functioning
Manipur	Functioning	8	8 Functioning
Meghalaya	Functioning	7	7 Functioning
Mizoram	Functioning	3	3 Functioning
Nagaland	Functioning	7	7 Functioning
Orissa	Functioning	27	13 Functioning
Punjab	Functioning	14	13 Functioning
Rajasthan	Functioning	30	30 Functioning
Sikkim	Functioning	4	4 Functioning
Tamil Nadu	Functioning	22	22 Functioning
Tripura	Functioning	3	3 Functioning
Uttar Pradesh	Functioning	63	63 Functioning
West Bengal	Functioning	17	17 Functioning
A & N Island	Functioning	2	2 Functioning
Chandigarh	Functioning	1	1 Functioning
D &N Haveli	Functioning	1	1 Functioning
Delhi	Functioning	1	2 Functioning
Daman & Diu	Functioning	2	2 Functioning
Lakshadweep	Functioning	1	1 Functioning
Pondicherry	Functioning	1	1 Functioning

No. of State Commission Functioning : 31
No. of District Forums Functioning : 457

In addition, one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are functioning in the State of Jammu & Kashmir where they have enacted a separate Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987.

Factors Responsible for Influencing Prices

1954. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5230 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 1994 and State:

(a) the details of various factors responsible for influencing the pricing of consumer items; and

(b) the steps taken to keep strict watch on those factors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The factors which influence the pricing of consumer items include the cost of raw material, salaries, cost of packaging and marketing, advertisement cost, etc.

(b) At a macro-level the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution monitors the prices of 12 essential commodities on a daily basis and 27 other commodities on a weekly basis. At a micro-level the factors mentioned in part (a) above are influenced by manufacturers themselves taking into account competitiveness of the market.